REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the Pending Application and Claims 1-18 have been rejected.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-18 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,961,136). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1 recites a time administrator comprising a first unit which acts as a clock and transmits a first signal indicative of a *standard time*, a second unit which makes access to said first unit and receives said first signal, a third unit which judges whether a system for *adjusting a current time* is adapted and further whether said system is to be applied to said *standard time*, and a fourth unit which, when said third unit judges that said system is to be applied to said *standard time*, carries out a specific operation to said *standard time*, and transmits a second signal indicative of the result of said operation as a *current time*, and which, when said third unit judges that said system is not to be applied to said *standard time*, transmits a third signal without carrying out said operation which third signal is indicative of said *standard time* as a *current time*.

None of the cited references teach or suggest *using* a *standard time* and *adjusting* the *standard time* to a *current time*. For example, Ogura et al. teaches an image forming device 1 having a control unit which includes a CPU 11, a real time clock circuit 12, a ROM 13, a RAM 14, a nonvolatile RAM 15, an input/output port 16, and serial communication control units 17a, 17b, and 17c. (See Ogura et al., col. 10, lines 33-48) The real time clock circuit 12 includes a time generating unit, a transmission time setting register and a time comparing unit. The time *generating unit generates a current time* (a year, a month, a date, an hour and a minute). The transmission time setting register sets a *data transmission time*, at which an image forming device

transmits data related to the image forming device, to the central management unit 6 or the data communication device 7. The data transmission time, however, is *different* from a "standard time," since the data transmission time is the time at which the image forming device *transmits data* related to the image forming device. Additionally, Ogura et al. fails to teach or disclose *adjusting* the data transmission time to a *current time* or to any time at all. Ogura et al. just mentions that the time comparing unit *compares* the current time with the data transmission time and then generating a data-transmission requesting signal upon *comparing* the two times. No teaching or suggestion of adjusting any time at all is present in Ogura et al.

Furthermore, Ogura et al. fails to teach or disclose a *fourth unit* which transmits a *third signal* without carrying out an operation which third signal is indicative of said *standard time* as a *current time*. While Ogura et al. teaches that the time comparing unit generates a data-transmission requesting signal and transmits it to a central management device, Ogura et al. fails to teach having the central management device *transmit any signal* to the time comparing unit.

For these and other reasons, the cited art does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claim 1, 3, 6, 9 and 13. Therefore, Claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 13 are allowable along with all claims which depend from the same for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant maintains that the application is in condition for allowance. If Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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